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March 7, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Numbering Resource Optimization
CC Docket No. 99-200, ExParte

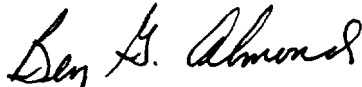
Dear Ms. Salas:

This is to inform you that on March 6 and 7, 2000, Art Morrison and Ben Almond, both of BellSouth Corporation along with Michele Young, a consultant working on behalf of BellSouth met in separate meetings with several wireless Legal Advisors concerning the above referenced proceeding. The attached document was used for discussion purposes. The first meeting was held on March 6 with Peter Tenhula, Senior Legal Advisor in Commissioner Michael K. Powell's office. The second meeting was held on March 7 with Bryan Tramont, Legal Advisor in Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth's office and the last meeting was held with Mark Schneider, Senior Legal Advisor in Commissioner Susan Ness's office.

Please associate with notification and accompanying material with the referenced docket proceeding.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Ben Almond
Vice President – Federal Regulatory

Cc: Peter Tenhula
Bryan Tramont
Mark Schneider

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Numbering Resource Optimization

CC Docket No. 99-200

Ex Parte Presentation
BellSouth Cellular Corp
March 6, 2000

Numbering Resource Optimization

CC Docket No. 99-200

Ex Parte Presentation
BellSouth Cellular Corp
March 7, 2000

Overview

- *Commission's logic in LNP extension for wireless is still sound*
- *Wireless pooling prior to LNP is impractical and inappropriate*
- *A utilization threshold solution, in the event they are mandated by the Commission*
- *Strong national guidelines are needed for consistency and competitive neutrality*

Wireless LNP

➤ *Commission's logic in LNP extension for wireless is still sound*

- PCS network build outs are still underway
- To support nationwide roaming, significant roaming challenges must be addressed
- Given human and capital resource constraints, the Wireless Number Portability Timeline for Phase 2 is ambitious yet realistic
- BellSouth is diligently working on compliance with the FCC mandate to implement LNP
- November 24, 2002 is the earliest practical date for wireless LNP

Wireless Pooling

➤ *Wireless pooling prior to LNP is impractical and inappropriate*

- Wireless carriers efficiently use NXXs over multiple rate centers so that pooling for wireless is unnecessary
- Pooling before LNP is technically impossible because pooling uses the LNP architecture
- Significant problems exist with donation of numbers prior to pooling
- WNPSC investigation concluded that pooling before porting is not a viable approach for wireless
- Consuming resources to implement interim pooling would jeopardize compliance with the LNP implementation deadline

Wireless Utilization

- *A utilization threshold solution, in the event they are mandated by the Commission*
- There are many factors which influence how wireless carriers utilize numbers
 - The code request procedure, using months to exhaust as described in the current C.O. Code Assignment Guidelines, is the appropriate vehicle to manage utilization
 - BellSouth proposes a utilization threshold solution based on rate centers, using a phased-in threshold, and offering a solution to the “end-run” problem
 - Utilization by NPA is only appropriate for monitoring purposes

BellSouth's Wireless Utilization Threshold Solution

- Carriers who pool should not be required to use utilization thresholds
- Carriers may choose to continue using utilization thresholds in lieu of pooling
- Utilization should be calculated based on wireline rate centers
- Calculations should follow CO Code Assignment Guideline conventions for the various number category definitions
- The utilization should be calculated at the time a code is requested
- There should be two tracks for obtaining new codes from NANPA
 - A "High utilization track" – applies whenever carrier meets or exceeds utilization threshold in rate center. Thresholds are
 - 55% - effective with NRO Order
 - 60% - effective one year later
 - 65% - effective two years later
 - Only one rate center in a wireline local calling area may contain "virtual" NXX codes. "Virtual" NXXs are codes that exist in a rate center without the physical presence of a mobile switch. (Existing virtual codes should be grandfathered.)
 - NANPA must grant or deny code request within ten business days from receipt
 - A "Low utilization track" – applies whenever carrier cannot meet utilization threshold, but carrier still has a legitimate and reasonable need for numbers in a rate center. Consists of
 - Demand showing - showing of need for numbers with sufficient data for NANPA to verify whether demand is justified
 - Capacity showing - showing of reasons existing numbers cannot be used to satisfy demand with sufficient data for NANPA to justify
 - NANPA must provide code or denial reasons within 10 business days from receipt

National Numbering Guidelines

➤ *Strong national guidelines are needed for consistency and competitive neutrality*

- The FCC must establish and enforce national guidelines
- The FCC must clearly define state authority over numbering
- State-by state implementation of pooling is inconsistent with inter-state nature of NPAC and operational conventions of wireline and wireless carriers
- Numbering Authority over and above that already granted by the FCC in addressing the individual state petitions is inappropriate

LCA - Landline Local Calling Area
RC - Rate Center

